

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 794
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.02.2018**

SAFETY OF RAILWAY TRACKS

794. SHRI V. ELUMALAI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps planned by the Railways to improve the safety of rail tracks, including automated inspections and frequent traffic blocks for maintenance;

(b) whether all the railway zones have been asked to procure self-propelled cars for track inspection and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a large number of rail fractures are occurring on rail tracks that have not served even 25% of their lifespan and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether it is true that this usually happens due to improper handling or laying of rail tracks and is a major sign of worry and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN)

(a) Steps taken by the Railways to improve safety of railway track are as under:

(i) Track renewal works are undertaken as and when stretch of track becomes due for renewal on the basis of criteria laid down in Indian Railway Permanent Way Manual on age/condition basis.

(ii) Primary track renewals are now sanctioned with Pre-stressed Concrete (PSC) Sleepers, 60kg, 90 kg/sq mm UTS (Ultimate Tensile Strength) rails, fan-shaped layout on PSC sleepers, Steel Channel Sleepers on girder bridges, etc.

(iii) Indian Railways have a system of scheduled inspections by Railway officials which, inter alia, includes daily inspection by Keyman, inspections at stipulated periodicity by various designated officials to monitor condition of track and periodic measurement/monitoring of track parameters by Track Recording Cars (TRCs) and Oscillation Monitoring Systems (OMS) for safe running of traffic.

(iv) Mechanized track maintenance is being carried out by deployment of state of the art track maintenance machines. Advance monitoring equipments viz Automated integrated track geometry cum video inspection system with features like rail wear measurement, axle box level acceleration measurement, condition monitoring of track component, clearance measurement to identify any infringement, etc besides track geometry measurement are also planned to be inducted. To ensure availability of traffic blocks for track maintenance work, a Joint Procedure Order (JPO) has been issued for advance planning of maintenance block by Zonal Railways.

(b) No, Madam.

(c) Analysis of rail/weld fractures occurred during 2017-18 has indicated that about 35% Rail fractures have taken place within 25% of stipulated service life of rails.

(d) These Rail fractures occurred due to various reasons which include corrosion, higher wheel impact loading, inherent defects in rails, improper handling of rails, etc.
